

REMARKS

Pending Claims:

In this application, claims 1, 2, and 5-17 are currently pending. Claims 2, 7-13, and 15-17 have not been altered since filing. Claims 1, 5, 6, and 14 are amended by this Response. Claims 3, 4, and 18-21 have been deleted, where claims 18-21 were previously withdrawn in light of a prior restriction requirement. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 (paragraph 2)

In the Office Action, a rejection was made under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, to claims 5 and 6 due to a lack of antecedent basis for the phrase "rubber sheet." These claims have been amended to remove this phrase and overcome this rejection. In addition, claim 14 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 12, and 13 as being unpatentable as being either anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,004,635 (to Griebeling) or as obvious in light of Griebeling. The Examiner found claims 3, 4, 7-11, and 14-17 to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The applicant has responded to this rejection by incorporating the limitations of claim 3 and 4 into independent claim 1. Since claim 4 did not depend from claim 3, the limitations of both claims were incorporated through a grouping of both limitations in a Markush claim. By incorporating the limitations from these two allowed claims, the applicant believes that all of the pending claims contain allowable subject matter.



CONCLUSION

of the claims remaining in this application should now be seen to be in
condition for allowance. The prompt issuance of a notice to that effect is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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